



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 21, 2006

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MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING 11-YEAR OLD BOY

TUCSON, Ariz. – Catalina Rodriguez-Amado, 31, of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here to 15 months incarceration, by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins. Rodriguez-Amado had pleaded guilty on June 9, 2006 to Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens for Profit.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton said “the smuggling and transportation of undocumented minors into and within the United States is a serious problem. These children are vulnerable to neglect and abuse when they are transported by smugglers they do not know, and then handed off to other strangers, all for the smuggler’s monetary profit.”

Rodriguez-Amado admitted the following facts when she pleaded guilty:

On December 14, 2005, I knowingly agreed with at least one other person to transport illegal aliens and I intended to transport illegal aliens. I presented myself for admission into the United States in pedestrian lane at the Port of Entry in Douglas, Arizona. I was accompanied by a male child. I claimed that I was the mother to the male child, and I presented a valid DPS-150 laser visa for the minor male. After *Miranda*, I stated that I was to be paid \$400 to smuggle the child into the United States. I also admitted that I did not know the minor child’s name. The eleven-year-old male, A. R-C, was identified as a Mexican citizen present in the United States illegally. I knew the minor child was an illegal alien and I intended to assist him in remaining in the United States unlawfully.

The investigation in this case was conducted by United States Border Patrol. The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0092-TUC-RCC (GEE)
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-157(Rodriguez-Amado)

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